

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention provides cosmetics obtained from naturally occurring algae as the starting material and exhibiting protective and cosmetic effects on the skin and hair. Algal proteins or their hydrolysates peptides, or derivatives thereof such as esters are contained in usual skin cosmetics, hair cosmetics, bath agents etc. The algae are preferably algae of the genus Porphyra, wakame seaweed, Chlorella or Spirulina, and preferably the proteins are extracted with a solvent directly after destroying cell walls of the algae by milling etc. The algal peptides can be obtained by treatment of the algae themselves or by enzyme decomposition, acid or alkali hydrolysis of the proteins or heating extraction under pressure.